

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06

OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 AID-20 /144 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3932

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BL

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF INTERIOR PRESSES FOR EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS
LAW ENFORCEMENT

REFERENCE: LA PAZ 5163

1. DR. GASTON LEDEZMA. SUBSECRETARY OF JUSTICE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR PLACED CHARGES OF BREACH OF TRUST AGAINST ERNESTO SOSSA BALDIVIESO, A LOWER COURT JUDGE, WHO HAD FOUND MARIA MALKI FARAH, ONE OF THE BOLIVIAN NARCOTICS POLICE'S PRIZE ARRESTS, INNOCENT FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE. MALKI WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEIZURE OF 15 KILOS OF COCAINE REMAINS IN CUSTODY AND HER CASE IS BEING PROCESSED THROUGH HIGHER COURTS.

2. DR. LEDEZMA REPORTS THAT THE PRESS HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE WITH HIM IN PUBLISHING MATERIAL HE HAS RELEASED ON THE NARCOTICS ISSUE. RECENTLY, SEVERAL LA PAZ AND COCHABAMBA PAPERS PUBLISHED STORIES INDICATING THAT BOLIVIAN NARCOTICS OFFICERS HAD ARRESTED 49 COCAINE TRAFFICKERS AND SEIZED 40 KILOS OF THE DRUG AND POINTING OUT THAT THE COURTS HAD YET TO CONVICT ONE OF THE ACCUSED. THE ARTICLES GAVE A DETAILED LIST OF THE
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PERSONS ARRESTED, THE DATES THEIR CASES WERE PASSED TO THE COURTS

AND THE NAMES OF THE COURTS HEARING THE CASES. THE THEME OF THE ARTICLES WAS "THE EFFORTS OF THE STATE TO SUPPRESS TRAFFICKING IN COCAINE ARE USELESS IF THE COURTS FAIL TO PUNISH THE GUILTY."

3. RECENTLY, THE CHIEF AND TWO AGENTS OF THE BOLIVIAN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT WERE ARRESTED WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD ACCEPTED A BRIBE (LA PAZ 5163).

4. COMMENT: THE GOB IS SHOWING COMMENDABLE DETERMINATION TO PREVENT CORRUPTION FROM TAKING HOLD AMONG ITS DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND TO PREVENT THE COURTS FROM TAKING NARCOTICS OFFENSES LIGHTLY.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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